

STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Robert L. Salter, Acting Director

Quarterly Project Progress Report
CLEARWATER RIVER DEVELOPMENT OF
SPRING CHINOOK AND STEELHEAD STOCKS

Accounting Code 88E25032

Period Covered: January 1 to March 31, 1980

by
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Clearwater River Development of Spring Chinook and Steelhead Stocks

ABSTRACT :

A very mild winter and lower than normal precipitation in the Selway drainage resulted in what should be good survival conditions for the chinook eggs in Indian Creek Incubation Channel. The channel was ice free by 25 February. We are anticipating a high percentage of emergent fry this spring.

REPORT OF PROGRESS ;

Trips were made to Indian Creek Incubation Channel on 1 February and 11 March. Another trip had been scheduled on 12 January. However, a blizzard during that week piled over 18 inches of powdery snow on Nez Perce Pass making access by snowmobile impossible. On the February trip, the channel was 90% frozen over with an adequate flow of water passing under the ice. By 11 March, the channel was free of ice. The channel tender reported that the ice was off by 25 February, which is very early. Live sac fry were noted in the channel on both trips. The channel tender reported some predation on fry by an otter in early March.

The snowpack on Nez Perce Pass was less than 60 percent of normal by the end of March. On our 11 March trip, the snow gauge at the top of the pass indicated three feet of snow. There were bare spots on the road at Magruder Crossing and Beaver Point. Run-off should be extremely low this year and we should have no problems with flooding at the channel.

We will install the fry trap at the channel by 20 April.

Submitted by :

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RLL/cae
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